

## OVERVIEW OF THE MINOR

The Studies in Ministry minor is dedicated to preparing students, theologically and practically, for entry-level ministry positions in churches and Christian organizations. It aims to provide students who are discerning a call to Christian ministry with the theological framework, practical experience, spiritual disciplines, and mentoring guidance necessary to embark upon a lifetime of involvement in Christian ministries. Through coursework, year-long internships, and relationships with each other and mentors, students in this minor will be prepared for possible future theological education and various non-ordained ministry positions in churches and organizations – locally and worldwide.

This program will prepare students for such ministries as youth ministry; worship leadership; leadership within community development, missions, and social agencies; lay ministry within the church; and, where appropriate, future seminary training and theological education.

The minor has three different tracks:

### **Youth Ministry**

### **Worship Leadership (with two sub-tracks: Pastoral and Musical)**

### **Social Witness**

- To participate in this minor **students must apply and be admitted in the spring semester**, after taking one prerequisite course. In the fall semester after students are accepted, they continue taking courses and begin their mentoring relationship. Some courses are common to all of the tracks, some are specially designed for each track (e.g., Theology of Youth Ministry), and others are elective courses that the student picks from other departments (e.g., Developmental Psychology, Public Presentation).
- **The minor culminates in a year-long internship, taken for credit, and a year-long capstone seminar.** These are done at the same time to provide a chance for students to process their internship and integrate all of their different classroom, extracurricular, and ministry experiences. The goal of the capstone seminar is to further explore the theology and practice of ministry and to enable each student to articulate his/her own theology of ministry. In some cases, students may do a summer internship, in which case they take the capstone seminar in the year following the internship.
- **Every student in the minor is matched with a spiritual mentor.** These mentors are to walk alongside students as they grow in their Christian faith, to help them discern their spiritual gifts and callings, and to process their ministry and life experiences with them. The mentoring relationship also enables students to experience the importance of having sources of sustenance and nurture in their lives and their ministries. In most instances, the mentoring relationship will last two years. It is a different relationship than that between students and their internship supervisors, in order to provide a further outlet for students to process their internships and the questions about calling and faith that might arise through them.